

## Key Partner Organizations: Vision and Mission Statement

### STATE AGENCIES

#### Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

The mission of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division is to manage, protect, conserve, and enhance the wildlife and aquatic resources of Alabama for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama.

#### Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Resources Division

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is comprised of six divisions which carryout DNR's mission to sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources. As one of six divisions within DNR, the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) is charged with conserving, enhancing and promoting Georgia's wildlife resources, including game and nongame animals, fish and protected plants. WRD is comprised of four sections – Game Management, Fisheries Management, Law Enforcement and Nongame Conservation, which regulate hunting, fishing and boat operation, protect nongame and endangered wildlife, provide conservation education and enforce laws for the protection and use of Georgia's natural resources.

#### Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

**Mission - To conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife related activities.**

**Vision - The Department's ideal future will include:**

- Healthy and diverse fish and wildlife habitats and populations;
- Ample opportunities to safely pursue hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife related activities;
- Dedicated, long-term and ample funding sources;
- Expanded partnerships in conservation and recreation; and
- An expanded user base that reflects Kentucky's population without compromising our heritage.

#### Maryland Department of Natural Resources

**Mission: The Department of Natural Resources leads Maryland in securing a sustainable future for our environment, society, and economy by preserving, protecting, restoring, and enhancing the State's natural resources.**

**Vision: In a sustainable Maryland, we recognize that the health of our society and our economy are dependent on the health of our environment. Therefore, we choose to act both collectively and individually to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance our environment for this and future generations.**

#### New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

The mission of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is to protect and manage the State's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic values for all New Jerseyans.

### North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission

**Mission:** To conserve North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation.

### Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife

**Mission:** To conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all.

### Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

**Mission:** to "provide fishing and boating opportunities through the protection and management of aquatic resources."

### Pennsylvania Game Commission

The mission of the Pennsylvania Game Commission is:

- To manage and protect wildlife
- To manage wildlife habitat
- To inform and educate the public on wildlife and safe hunting practices

### Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

The mission of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is to preserve, conserve, protect, and enhance the fish and wildlife of the state and their habitats for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the citizens of Tennessee and its visitors. The Agency will foster the safe use of the state's waters through a program of law enforcement, education, and access.

### Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' mission is:

- to manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth;
- to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation and to work diligently to safeguard the rights of the people to hunt, fish and harvest game as provided for in the Constitution of Virginia;
- to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing;
- to provide educational outreach programs and materials that foster an awareness of and appreciation for Virginia's fish and wildlife resources, their habitats, and hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities.

### West Virginia DNR Wildlife

The Wildlife Diversity Program's primary responsibility is to conserve the state's nongame wildlife resources through the identification and management of nongame species and their habitats. The WDP also seeks to inform and educate the public about the resource, and to enhance the recreational opportunities it provides.

## **FEDERAL AGENCIES**

### Army Corp of Engineers

**Mission:** Provide vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our Nation's security, energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters.

**Vision: A GREAT engineering force of highly disciplined people working with our partners through disciplined thought and action to deliver innovative and sustainable solutions to the Nation's engineering**

**Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration**

**Mission: To improve mobility on our Nation's highways through national leadership, innovation, and program delivery.**

**Vision: Our agency and our transportation system are the best in the world.**

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

**The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment.**

**EPA's purpose is to ensure that:**

- **all Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work;**
- **national efforts to reduce environmental risk are based on the best available scientific information;**
- **federal laws protecting human health and the environment are enforced fairly and effectively;**
- **environmental protection is an integral consideration in U.S. policies concerning natural resources, human health, economic growth, energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and international trade, and these factors are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy;**
- **all parts of society -- communities, individuals, businesses, and state, local and tribal governments -- have access to accurate information sufficient to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks;**
- **environmental protection contributes to making our communities and ecosystems diverse, sustainable and economically productive; and**
- **the United States plays a leadership role in working with other nations to protect the global environment.**

**Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS):**

**Mission: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service mission is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.**

**FWS + USGS (in implementing SHC approach to Conservation Planning, Design, Delivery, Monitoring, and Research and Evaluation): (A Shared Vision) -- "Working together, merging people, partners and science to ensure the future of fish, wildlife, and their habitats." In committing to this joint vision, we will:**

- **Engage partners and the public in development of population objectives.**
- **Develop and share scientific information to define the functional landscapes needed to support populations.**
- **Align our programs and conservation efforts to contribute to population and landscape habitat conservation.**
- **Engage our best scientists with natural resource managers to design actions, measure outcomes, and continually refine and improve conservation results.**
- **Invest in new and existing partnerships with States and others to catalyze and connect our collective conservation and science capacity.**

- Promote the development and use of cooperative and financial incentives for private landowners to manage habitat for the benefit of trust species.

### Forest Service

The Forest Service mission is captured by the phrase "Caring for the Land and Serving People." Our mission, as set forth by law, is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people.

### National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – National Climate Service

**Mission:** Improve understanding and prediction of changes in climate and inform a climate-resilient society by:

- Monitoring climate trends, conducting research, and developing models to strengthen our knowledge of the changing climate and its impacts on our physical, economic, and societal systems
- Providing authoritative and timely information products and services about climate change, climate variability, and impacts
- Informing decision-making and management at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels

The Climate Service delivers products and services in collaboration with public, private, and academic partners to maximize social, economic, and environmental benefits.

**Vision:** By providing science and services, the Climate Service envisions an informed society capable of anticipating and responding to climate and its impacts.

### National Parks Service

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

### National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

**Mission:** Ensure compliance with Agency policies for conservation and equal opportunity programs, and accountability for the delivery of quality and timely services to our customers.

**Vision:** Equity for People and Programs.

### Office of Surface Mining

**Mission:** Our mission is to carry out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) in cooperation with States and Tribes. Our primary objectives are to ensure that coal mines are operated in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining and assures that the land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

**Vision:** In regulating active coal mining, we will maintain compliance at high levels and ensure that all mines are properly operated and promptly reclaimed to the standards established

under the Act. We will emphasize prevention and ensure that long-term environmental problems do not occur. We will ensure that the premining productivity of the land is restored.

- In reclaiming abandoned mine lands, we will aggressively pursue reclamation with a primary emphasis on correcting the most serious problems related to public health, safety, and the general welfare. We will ensure maximum public benefit through the prompt and fair distribution of public funds.
- In cooperating with State regulatory authorities, the primary enforcers of SMCRA, and with Tribes, we will promote a shared commitment to the goals of the Act. We will develop comprehensive understandings about the fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency of SMCRA programs. We will provide constructive program reviews, oversight monitoring, and technical assistance that focus on results. We will act independently to protect the public interest in situations of imminent harm or when a State does not implement an approved regulatory program.
- In dealing with those who are affected by mining and reclamation, we will ensure the protection of citizens from abusive mining practices, be responsive to their concerns, and allow them full access to information needed to evaluate the effect of mining on their health, safety, general welfare, and property.
- In our relations with the coal industry, we will have clear, fair, and consistently applied policies and will respect the importance of coal production as a source of our Nation's energy supply.
- In all communications, we will maintain open, courteous, constructive, and timely dialogue and will use information to understand and improve our programs and those of our State and Tribal partners.
- In demonstrating leadership in mining and reclamation, we will promote the development of the highest quality technical information and research and will seek the transfer of technology to those who would benefit.
- In meeting our responsibilities, we will be a diverse, competent, innovative, and highly-trained work force. We will serve with integrity, and demonstrate technical, legal, administrative, and professional excellence at all times. We will constantly strive to create a more responsive, efficient, and effective process for achieving SMCRA's objectives.

#### Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG)

**Mission Statement:** The Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG) is a collaboration of regional Federal executives who lead agencies with natural resource conservation responsibilities in the southeastern United States. SENRLG is committed to the common purpose of fulfilling agency mandates in ways that promote conservation and restoration of important natural resources; wise management and sound stewardship of natural, biological and cultural resources; and ecologically sustainable development.

**Goals:** The goals of the SENRLG Partnership may be summarized as follows:

- Establish and nurture collaborative interagency relationships that lead to sustainable healthy ecosystems, wise economic growth, and preservation of cultural values across the Southeast;
- Focus agency programs and resources toward collaborative initiatives that enhance and protect natural resources, and educate citizens on their importance; and
- Communicate cooperative accomplishments that emphasize the ecological, cultural and economic values and needs of the Southeast.

More specifically, SENRLG enhances the ability of member Federal agencies to:

- Identify key environmental, development, procedural and policy issues related to natural resource management and conservation in the Southeast. Support, encourage, and undertake cooperative resource management, adaptive management, and research initiatives.
- Promote partnership opportunities with state, local and other entities that enhance regional resource management and conservation activities, and promote sustainable community development. Utilize limited Federal resources more effectively.
- Achieve more comprehensive communications with, and support from, the public and Congress.
- Educate the public on the importance of our rich natural and cultural heritage. Practice flexibility and innovation. Adopt an interdisciplinary, coordinated approach to achieve desired results.

### US Geological Survey (USGS)

**Mission:** The USGS serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

**Vision:** The USGS is a world leader in the natural sciences through its scientific excellence and responsiveness to society's needs.

### TRIBAL PARTNERS

#### Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

The Mission of the EBCI Office of Planning and Development is to mobilize available economic resources to enhance the overall quality of life for our people. We strive to grow job opportunities, to improve the business climate and tax base of the Tribe, and to promote a self-sustaining and diverse economy on the Qualla Boundary.

### REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

#### Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture

**Vision:** Partners working together for conservation of native bird species in the Appalachian Mountains region will attain:

- well-managed, fully-functioning ecosystems with sustainable populations of the region's native avifauna, guided by state, regional, national, and international bird plans;
- collaborative and effective delivery of habitat conservation through adaptive management, and guided by an iterative conservation approach consisting of biological planning, conservation design, delivery of conservation actions, evaluation, and research;
- success in capitalizing on funding opportunities relevant to partnership priorities;
- Joint Venture status as described in 721 FW 6 (USFWS policy on Joint Ventures), with associated USFWS financial support for basic program infrastructure; and,
- an engaged Management Board, representative of the diverse landscape and effective partnerships in the Appalachian Mountains.

**Mission:** To restore and sustain viable populations of native birds and their habitats in the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture through effective, collaborative partnerships.

### Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

The vision of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture partnership is “*healthy, fishable brook trout populations throughout their historic eastern geographic range*”, which will be achieved by conserving intact brook trout populations and habitats; enhancing or restoring brook trout populations and habitats that have been impacted by habitat modification or other disturbances; encouraging partnerships among management agencies and stakeholders to seek solutions to issues such as regional environmental and ecological threats; developing and implementing outreach and educational programs to ensure public awareness of the challenges that face brook trout populations; and, developing support for implementation of programs that perpetuate and restore brook trout throughout their historic range.

### Mid-Atlantic Highlands Action Program (HAP) Charter

The mid-Atlantic highlands should remain a special place where stewardship of the environment is an important part of the community, quality of life, and economics of the region. The Mid-Atlantic Highlands Action Program will use the best available science to improve the natural resources and socio-economic conditions in the mid-Atlantic highlands by achieving the following program goals:

- Highlighting special places that have ecological and cultural importance;
- Revitalizing damaged ecosystems;
- Empowering citizens and communities to strengthen the linkages among cultural heritage, economic viability and the condition of the environment;
- Enhancing opportunities for the restoration industry in the highlands, which will enhance lasting employment opportunities for its residents; and
- Leveraging existing resources to support all these goals.

### Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership

The Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership seeks to promote diverse aquatic communities and their role in maintaining water quality and healthy fish populations through voluntary grass-roots based improvements in watershed management and in-stream habitat conservation, for the betterment of the American people.

### Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP)

**Mission:** SARP will, with partners, protect, conserve and restore aquatic resources including habitats throughout the Southeast for the continuing benefit, use and enjoyment of the American people.

**Approach:**

- Support and facilitation of on-the-ground and in-the-water science-based action to improve and protect aquatic habitats and resources.
- Focused habitat assessments, restoration actions, monitoring and evaluation of some of the nation’s most economically and socially significant aquatic habitats.

## **NON-GOVERNMENTAL**

### American Bird Conservancy (ABC)

**Mission:** American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is a 501(c)(3), not-for profit organization whose mission is to conserve native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas.

**Vision: We envision an Americas-wide landscape where diverse interests collaborate to ensure that native bird species and their habitats are protected, where their protection is valued by society, and they are routinely considered in all land-use and policy decision-making.**

**Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)**

**Mission: TVA has a rich history of improving quality of life and economic prosperity for people and businesses in the TVA service area. Down through the years, as times have changed, TVA has changed with them, updating and refining its focus to better serve its enduring mission in:**

- **Affordable electricity**
- **Economic and agricultural development**
- **Environmental stewardship**
- **Integrated river system management, and**
- **Technological innovation**

**Vision: TVA's renewed vision is to be one of the nation's leading providers of low-cost and cleaner energy by 2020. More specifically, TVA intends to be:**

- **The nation's leader in improving air quality**
- **The nation's leader in increased nuclear production**
- **The Southeast's leader in increased energy efficiency**

**The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**

**Mission: The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.**

**Vision: Our vision is to leave a sustainable world for future generations.**

**Wildlife Management Institute (WMI)**

**Mission: Founded in 1911, WMI is a private, nonprofit, scientific and educational organization, dedicated to the conservation, enhancement and professional management of North America's wildlife and other natural resources.**